



Orientation: perpendicular line azimuth established from RCAHMS plans

- Black Upright recumbent stone
- Purple Upright recumbent stone, dislodged
- Red Fallen recumbent stone
- Blue Missing recumbent stone
- Green Restored recumbent stone

Recumbent Stone Circles Perpendicular Line Azimuth Values

1. These values for the perpendicular line azimuths of the recumbent stones have been established from the completed electronic plans that were prepared from the original field surveys undertaken between 1998 and 2005 by RCAHMS and published in *Great Crowns of Stone* (Welfare 2011). They were determined by making a judgement as to the best line representative of the horizontal axis of a recumbent stone, dropping the perpendicular from its centre and then evaluating the latter's angle. This methodology may seem sound, but it is not an exact science. Fractions of a degree have been rounded up or down as appropriate.
2. The values for those already published (Fig. 6.10; Appendix 4) have been reassessed, but variations of no more than a degree are not considered significant. However, the value obtained for New Craig differs by 3° while that for Cairnton differs by 16°. The latter's divergence from the original reading results from the decision to allow the horizontal axis of the recumbent to be determined by that of the undisturbed western flanker, in order to compensate more adequately for the fact that the recumbent, itself, has been dislodged by dynamite.
3. All these readings can be compared with values that Clive Ruggles obtained using a number of different sources (Ruggles 1984, Table 2).
4. Values have not been determined where the evidence is considered inadequate: Ardtannes Cottages, Auchlee, Bankhead, Bellman's Wood, Candle Hill, Colmeallie, Corrie Cairn, Druidstone, Gaval, Hillhead, Hill of Milleath, Montgoldrum (The Camp), Nether Coullie, Old Kirk of Tough, Old Rayne, Tilquhillie, Tombeg and Wester Echt.
5. The original readings were assessed by Adam Welfare and Kevin Macleod (2010), while the new readings were made by Adam Welfare and Alison McCaig (2023).

Alphabetical Order

Aikey Brae	187°	
Aquhorthies	171°	
Ardlair	156°	
Auchmachar	207°	
Auchmallidie	181°	[*181°]
Balnacraig	231°	
Balquhain	186°	
Berrybrae	209°	
Binghill	192°	
Blue Cairn of Ladieswell	208°	
Braehead	194°	[*194°]
Cairn Riv	184°	[*185°]
Cairnton	162°	[*179°]
Castle Fraser	199°	
The Cloch	146°	
Clune Wood	172°	
Corrstone Wood	215°	
Corrydown	206°	[*206°]
Cothiemuir Wood	200°	
Dunnideer	190°	[*190°]
Easter Aquhorthies	200°	
Eslie The Greater	184°	
Frendraught	162°	
The Gray Stone of Clochforbie	222°	[*221°]

Hatton of Ardoyne	227°	
Hill of Fiddes	199°	
Inschfield	206°	
Kirkton of Bourtie	191°	
Loanend	228°	
Loanhead of Daviot	182°	
Loudon Wood	186°	
Mains of Hatton	163°	
Midmar Kirk	228°	
Millplough	179°	
Nether Dumeath	143°	
Netherton of Logie	181°	
New Craig	199°	[*202°]
The Nine Stanes	129°	
North Strone	184°	
Old Keig	205°	
Pitglassie	164°	[*165°]
Potterton	214°	[*213°]
The Ringing Stone	201°	[*201°]
Rothiemay	202°	
South Fornet	186°	[*186°]
South Ley Lodge	194°	[*194°]
St Brandan's Stanes	183°	[*184°]
Stonehead	218°	[*218°]
Strichen House	169°	
Sunhoney	224°	
Tillifourie	190°	
Tomnagorn	190°	
Tomnaverie	233°	
Tyrebagger	179°	
Wantonwells	201°	[*202°]
Yonder Bognie	168°	
Total:	56	

Black Upright recumbent stone

Purple Upright recumbent stone, dislodged

Red Fallen recumbent stone

Blue Missing recumbent stone

Green Restored recumbent stone

* Previously published - GCOS, 199, fig 6.1; 565

Ordered in Terms of Degree

The Nine Stanes	129°	
Nether Dumeath	143°	
The Cloch	146°	
Ardlair	156°	
Cairnton	162°	[*179°]
Frendraught	162°	
Mains of Hatton	163°	
Pitglassie	164°	[*165°]
Yonder Bognie	168°	
Strichen House	169°	
Aquhorthies	171°	
Clune Wood	172°	
Millplough	179°	
Tyrebagger	179°	

Auchmallidie	181°	[*181°]
Netherton of Logie	181°	
Loanhead of Daviot	182°	
St Brandan's Stanes	183°	[*184°]
Cairn Riv	184°	[*185°]
Eslie The Greater	184°	
North Strone	184°	
Balquhain	186°	
Loudon Wood	186°	
South Fornet	186°	[*186°]
Aikey Brae	187°	
Dunnideer	190°	[*190°]
Tillifourie	190°	
Tomnagorn	190°	
Kirkton of Bourtie	191°	
Binghill	192°	
Braehead	194°	[*194°]
South Ley Lodge	194°	[*194°]
Castle Fraser	199°	
Hill of Fiddes	199°	
New Craig	199°	[*202°]
Cothiemuir Wood	200°	
Easter Aquhorthies	200°	
The Ringing Stone	201°	[*201°]
Wantonwells	201°	[*202°]
Rothiemay	202°	
Old Keig	205°	
Corrydown	206°	[*206°]
Inschfield	206°	
Auchmachar	207°	
Blue Cairn of Ladieswell	208°	
Berrybrae	209°	
Potterton	214°	[*213°]
Corrstone Wood	215°	
Stonehead	218°	[*218°]
The Gray Stone of Clochforbie	222°	[*221°]
Sunhoney	224°	
Hatton of Ardoyne	227°	
Loanend	228°	
Midmar Kirk	228°	
Balnacraig	231°	
Tomnaverie	233°	
	Total: 56	

Bibliography

Ruggles, C. L. N. 1984 A new study of the Aberdeenshire recumbent stone circles *Archaeoastronomy* 6 (Supplement to *J. Hist Astronomy* 15) 15-79

Welfare, A. (ed. Halliday, S.) 2011 *Great Crowns of Stone: The Recumbent Stone Circles of Scotland* (RCAHMS: Edinburgh)

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